

Philadelphia. Mr. Hill's three-year-old daughter Kim Hill and her childhood battle with leukemia inspired the model for the first Ronald McDonald House. Facing the rigors of multiple hospital visits, the Hill family sought to find a comfortable and supportive place of refuge for other parents facing similar situations. Through the support of Eagles owners, managers, teammates and various fundraising endeavors, the first Ronald McDonald House was opened in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The Ronald McDonald House provided the amenities of home while offering families a comfortable and supportive environment with easy access to area hospitals. The Philadelphia Ronald McDonald House would later act as the model for what would become an international network of temporary housing for families of ill children. By 1985, more than 88 Ronald McDonald Houses were established worldwide. The popular and unique fundraising strategies, including the "Pop Tab Collection Recycling Program", were raised millions for participating Houses and furthered the success of the organization. In 1984, Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC) was established in memory of McDonald's founder Ray Kroc. Since its inception, RMHC and its network of Chapters have awarded more than \$16 million in grants to more than 1,300 U.S. Children's organizations.

As a result of their commendable efforts, for two consecutive years, *Worth* magazine named RMHC one of "America's 100 Best charities of 2002".

The Ronald McDonald House of Long Branch and New Brunswick, New Jersey was established in 1987 and services community members throughout the State. Through the support of area businesses, organizations, civic groups, schools and individuals, as well as various fundraising and special events, the two Houses have served more than 4,000 families.

Mr. Speaker, once again, please join me in thanking the Ronald McDonald House of Long Branch and New Brunswick for their 25 years of service. The Ronald McDonald House continues to provide outstanding services to the Middlesex, Monmouth and NJ community.

HONORING MS. LOURDES UBIETA

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Lourdes Ubieta, a Venezuelan-born journalist and freedom fighter.

Ms. Ubieta speaks three languages and has profound experience in journalism, with a specific interest in human rights. In her current position, she serves as a co-host on a daily talk radio program broadcasted on Actualidad 1020AM. The two-hour long program focuses on domestic and international issues, which informs and educates thousands of Spanish speakers in our community.

Ms. Ubieta's leadership was instrumental in the organization of Venezuela's 2012 Presidential primary elections in Doral, Florida. With her assistance, twenty voting stations were set up at a strip plaza in order to accommodate the expected turnout. In all, more than 8,000 Venezuelan's exercised the right to vote in

their homeland's primary. Ms. Ubieta's commitment to democracy and the Venezuelan community in South Florida is clearly evident and extraordinary.

The numerous awards Ms. Ubieta has received are further proof of her hard work and dedication. In the past three years, she has been recognized by the Venezuelan American Chamber of Commerce, Broward Community Center, and has received the Venezuelan Business Club Award, among many others.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize a dear friend, Ms. Lourdes Ubieta for her outstanding professional career and leadership in our community. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this accomplished individual and wish her continued success.

THE CITY OF MOUND TURNS 100

HON. ERIK PAULSEN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, this year marks the centennial of the city of Mound, Minnesota. And although this picturesque community was officially incorporated in 1912, its roots run all the way back to before the Civil War when the town was known as Mound City.

In the early days, Mound was a bustling business district on the shores of Cooks Bay, frequented by the street car boats which travelled Lake Minnetonka at the turn of the 19th century. In 1900, the railroad came to town, requiring the business district to move to where we see it today.

From a city which derives its name from Indian burial mounds, this vibrant community has not only flourished over its 100 years as a home to close to 10,000 Minnesotans—and this year being named Minnesota's Best Place to Raise Your Kids 2012 by Bloomberg Businessweek—but has also been home to many of Minnesota's innovative small businesses.

I'd like to congratulate Mayor Hanus, and all of my neighbors who call Mound home—Happy 100th!

SALLIE MAE LOAN SERVICING
CENTER IN HANOVER TOWNSHIP

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Sallie Mae Loan Servicing Center in Hanover Township, which will celebrate its 25th anniversary today, April 25, 2012.

The Student Loan Marketing Association, commonly known as Sallie Mae, was originally created in 1972 as a government sponsored enterprise. In 1997, Sallie Mae began privatizing its operations. At the end of 2004, Congress terminated Sallie Mae's federal charter, officially ending its ties to the government. Today, Sallie Mae is the nation's number one financial services company specializing in education and offering a wide range of products and services from college savings programs to education loans.

Currently, Sallie Mae employs an estimated 8,000 individuals nationwide and is one of the largest employers in Northeastern Pennsylvania. In addition to providing jobs, Sallie Mae sponsors The Sallie Mae Fund, a charitable organization with a mission to increase access to higher education for America's students. In honor of the Hanover Township facility's 25th anniversary, The Sallie Mae Fund announced a \$150,000 donation to the Osterhout Free Library in Wilkes-Barre to support the library's early literacy outreach program. The Fund also supports employee volunteerism and community service. I am proud to say that Sallie Mae employees have raised more than \$2.5 million for Pennsylvania charities.

Mr. Speaker, for the last 25 years, Sallie Mae has proudly served the citizens of Hanover Township and all of Northeastern Pennsylvania. I commend Sallie Mae and all those employed at the Loan Servicing Center for their dedication to education, to the community, and to our country.

WORLD IMMUNIZATION WEEK:
PREVENTING PNEUMONIA AND
DIARRHEA WITH THE POWER OF
VACCINES

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, this week marks World Immunization Week, in which countries across the globe mobilize for a week of vaccination campaigns and public education about the value of immunization. I rise today to celebrate a major milestone in global health: the rollout of two new vaccines to protect infants from two of the biggest killers of children under the age of five—pneumonia and diarrhea—that is taking place today in Ghana.

Hundreds of Ghanaians have played a frontline role in making their country the first in Africa to simultaneously introduce both pneumococcal and rotavirus vaccines to their people. While the Government and the people of Ghana are to be congratulated for this unprecedented accomplishment, I also want to acknowledge the role U.S. taxpayers have played in making this moment possible.

The United States' commitment to the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI Alliance) has been instrumental in making these vaccines affordable and accessible for children in the world's poorest countries. Immunization is one of the most successful and cost-effective public health interventions. By supporting new vaccines, the GAVI Alliance is well within target to immunize more than 250 million children in the world's poorest countries by 2015, preventing more than 4 million premature deaths.

Seattle, which I represent, has made significant contributions toward the United States becoming a leader in global health innovation, including vaccination research. For example, earlier this year, promising preliminary results from the trial of a malaria vaccine known as RTS,S made headlines around the world when it showed that nearly fifty percent of children who received the vaccine were protected from malaria—a leading cause of death among children in developing countries. The Bill and